

curbings and into strange front and backyards of  
unknown homes, the dogs barking, the people screaming at  
us.

we were

maniacal, we never quit until the call for supper  
which none of us could afford to  
miss.

anyhow, Eugene became a Commander in the  
Navy and Frank became a Supreme Court Justice, State of  
California, and I fiddled with the  
poem.

#### HOW I GOT STARTED

it has taken me decades to realize  
why I was usually chosen over the  
6 or 7 candidates for those  
paltry shipping clerk jobs  
in those small business houses  
across the nation.

first, I was big --  
which meant I could lift heavy  
objects.

second, I was ugly --  
which meant I was no threat to  
the secretaries.

third, I looked dumb --  
which meant I was too stupid  
to steal.

if I had been running a business  
and a guy like me had come to apply  
for a job opening  
I would have hired him  
right away.

which is rather  
what I ended up doing anyhow  
in another kind of  
business.

-- Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA